

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

cordially invites you to a discussion

with Religious Leaders, on

### **Uniting people through diversity – coming together during times of need**

September is heritage month in South Africa, celebrated on 24 September each year by recognising and celebrating the cultural wealth of the nation. South Africa boasts a richness of cultural diversity from the precolonial era to the present. Heritage is an integral component of all communities and links identity to ancestors and for continuity in future generations. Aspects of heritage intersect with our daily cultural traditions, oral history performance, ritual, popular memory, skills and techniques, indigenous knowledge systems and the holistic approach to nature, society, and social relationships. Heritage plays an important role in promoting cultural diversity, social cohesion, reconciliation, peace, and economic development. The current COVID-19 pandemic has affected some aspects of our cultural practices. These include restrictions on burial practices, our grieving processes, not being able to visit the sick in hospitals, etc. Moreover, the social distancing in informal settlements and rural communities has been a challenge to the young and the old.

To celebrate our diversity, the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) will host a webinar with the Religious Sector to discuss these issues, how they have been affected, how they have gone around them and also take recommendations for the future. Given the current lockdown status, the programme will be undertaken virtually, with a link to be provided for attendees and participants to join the discussion.

**Date:** Wednesday, 29 September 2021

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:30 (South African Standard Time)

**Venue:** Zoom webinar

**RSVP:** [Click here](#) to register (upon registration, you will receive an email with the login credentials)

#### **PROGRAMME**

<b>10:00 – 10:10</b>	<b>Opening and Welcome remarks</b> Dr Stanley Maphosa – International and National Liaison Manager, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
<b>10:10 – 11:10</b>	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Prof Brij Maharaj, Professor of Geography and Deputy President of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha  Sultan Sheikh Yasin Muhammad Yaqeenullah Allamal Yaqen Muhammad, Grand Mufti SA and President of Muslim Supreme Council of South Africa (MUSCOOSA)  Dr Winnie Tshirumbula – Pentecost Church of God
<b>11:10 – 11:25</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>11:25 – 11:30</b>	<b>Closing Remarks and closure</b> Dr Stanley Maphosa – International and National Liaison Manager, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

**End of the webinar**



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Dr Stanley Maphosa** is the International and National Liaison Manager of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). He is also the Regional Coordinator of The World Academy of Science (TWAS) Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Partner (SAREP). Stanley leads ASSAf's Overseas Strategic Partnerships, Member Liaison, Overseas Collaborations, African Collaborations, Gender in Science Technology, and Innovation as well as the Young Scientist Liaison. Stanley and his team work to establish relations and maintain existing ones at bilateral and multilateral levels. He is a science diplomat who conducts training in that area, a science communicator, science adviser and science advocate. Stanley's work also includes providing leadership and guidance to the South African National Chapter of the Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) and the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS). He also works with government departments, civil society, parliaments and private sector nationally, regionally, Pan African and globally.



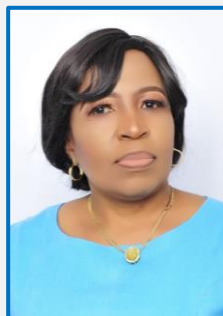
**Brij Maharaj** is a senior professor of geography and a B-rated NRF researcher in the School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban, South Africa. At UKZN he has served as Discipline Chair, HOD, Deputy Dean and Acting HOS. He has received widespread recognition for his research on urban politics, mega-events, segregation, local economic development, xenophobia and human rights, migration and diasporas, religion, philanthropy and development, and has published over 150 scholarly papers in renowned journals such as Urban Studies, International Journal of Urban and Regional Studies, Political Geography, Urban Geography, Antipode, Polity and Space, Geoforum, Migration and Development, Local Economy, and GeoJournal, as well as five co-edited book collections. He has graduated 60 Masters and Ph.D. candidates. He is a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He is the Chairperson of the South African National Committee of the International Geography Union, and former President of the Society of South African Geographers. He is a member of the International Geography Union's Honors and Awards Committee. He was co-editor of the South African Geographical Journal (Routledge). He was also Consulting Editor of the Journal of Immigration and Refugee Studies. He has served on the editorial boards of Journal of Urban Affairs, Geoforum, Antipode, Indian Ocean Survey, African Geographical Review, Migration and Development, and South Asian Diaspora. He is a regular media commentator on topical issues as part of his commitment to public intellectualism. He is Deputy President of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha.



**Sultan Sheikh Yasin Muhammad Yaqeenullah Allamal Yaqen Muhammad**, Grand Mufti of South Africa is Director Department of Sharia. He is in charge of observation of Sharia application, promotion, and protection. He is the head of all Muftis and Imams, he is chairman Council of Sheikhs (Majlis Ulama) responsible for answering questions regarding Islam, and issues in Islam that required Sharia ruling. He is a member of board of trustees.



**Dr Winnie Tshirumbula** is co-Founder of Wisdom through Christ Ministries in Thokoza, Alberton. Dr Tshirumbula is also a Partner in Nhlakanipho Business Enterprise specialising in business training, skills development and life coaching. She has served as a Board Member Rainbow Christian Radio Station and Nkosi's Haven Children Center. She is the Chairperson of the Gauteng Government Spiritual wellness Committee, the Woman of Value S.A and Member of the Executive Council of the International Ministers Forum.



**Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)**

**ASSAf Research Repository**

**<http://research.assaf.org.za/>**

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B. Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Events

I. Other

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2021

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Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), (2021). Uniting people through diversity – coming together during times of need. [Online] Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11911/202https://youtu.be/za312HXnCoQ>

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